

Memorandum

LATE
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A-15

Date: October 10, 2008
To: Honorable Chair and Members of the Board
From: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer



Subject: Halloween 2008 - Overview of Effort for Non Sponsored Event

Please let this memo serve as supplemental information to item A15 on your October 14 agenda. Initially, this item was scheduled for October 7, 2008 and continued to October 14, 2008. Questions pertaining to the temporary restriction of parking and closure of roads in Isla Vista during Halloween arose when this item (A-30) was brought forward for consideration during the Board of Supervisors' October 7, 2008 meeting. Specifically, members of the Board inquired about how County staff's processing of this event differed from other events sponsored by nonprofit and private sector organizations. This memo serves to clarify the item and provide additional information pertaining to Halloween in Isla Vista.

To clarify, the various activities undertaken during Halloween at Isla Vista are neither a formally sanctioned nor sponsored event by the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) or the County of Santa Barbara. For other events that have a sponsoring organization ("applicant"), Public Works staff issue a special event permit. While there is no County fee associated with the permit, the County may require certain conditions to be met in order to receive the permit. However, in this scenario, there is no organization requesting a permit nor any organization assumed responsible to uphold conditions that would ensure a safe event. Rather, the road closure item is being brought to the Board for consideration as a matter of public safety. Road signage and closure will allow the Sheriff's Department and CHP to control vehicular and pedestrian traffic as needed to respond to any incidents that may arise during the Halloween period.

The costs incurred to the County in providing services responding to activities that transpire during Halloween, have been a long-standing source of discussion between the County, City of Goleta and UCSB. Activities associated with Halloween in Isla Vista annually draw, depending upon conditions, between 15,000 to 40,000 individuals between 18-25 years old. The crowd is composed of resident UCSB and City College Students, under age high school students, and thousands of visitors whom travel to Isla Vista for this nationally recognized event. As in prior years, the outreach effort has been to discourage non-locals

from attending the event. This year, Halloween occurs on a Friday evening which traditionally leads to a two day event with major impacts in Isla Vista and neighboring areas on Friday and Saturday nights. As in prior years, countywide efforts are underway to ameliorate potential health and public safety issues arising from Halloween. A summary of the efforts for 2008 are highlighted below:

Public Safety: Approximately 185-200 law enforcement personnel are assigned to the Halloween event. For 2008, deployment via the Sheriff Department includes use of the new IV Foot Patrol facility as a field booking facility, as well as use of Embarcadero Hall for primary briefing and coordination of all personnel. All fit for duty personnel from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office are utilized during Halloween to ensure the County as a whole is covered and an appropriate level of enforcement is in place in Isla Vista. The total cost to the County for Sheriff Department services and personnel for Halloween 2007, a four day event, was \$300,000. This is inclusive of \$130,000 in overtime costs specifically required to augment staffing. The \$170,000 differential is inclusive of all other costs pertaining to the event including regularly scheduled personnel not requiring overtime, yet assigned specifically to the event, as well as services and supplies. In preplanning for 2008, a number of schedule adjustments have been made to reduce the amount anticipated for overtime. However, given the nature of Halloween 2008, a two day event with an anticipated increase in attendance, overtime has been budgeted at \$133,000.

Additionally, CHP is on state of tactical alert and maximum enforcement for the Halloween period. They have several DUI check points both entering and exiting Isla Vista and changeable message signs on freeways and primary off ramps referencing the event and that **no parking** is available. Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria City police gang units, as well as Santa Barbara Airport Patrol and Alcohol Beverage Control also participate in the law enforcement effort.

City of Goleta Public Works Department and Code Enforcement have taken a very active effort in planning for the event this year in conjunction with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff Department via their Sheriff Services Contract. All Goleta units are deployed throughout highly impacted areas of the Goleta community as well as primary entry ways to Isla Vista to prevent problems before they arise.

Efforts to ensure public safety extend beyond law enforcement, and require the involvement of other emergency providers, including the County Fire Department and emergency medical service providers. The Fire Department operates from Station 11 in Isla Vista and Station 17 on campus and responds to calls that occur during Halloween. The EMS Agency, housed within the Department of Public Health, is the oversight and coordination entity for emergency medical services in Santa Barbara County. As such, it takes a lead role in the planning and operational management of the medical operations in Isla Vista for Halloween. This entails coordinating with the various providers into an Operational Plan for IV Halloween including Santa Barbara County Fire and

Sheriff's Departments, American Medical Response (AMR), UCSB Police Department- Rescue, Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, and Santa Barbara Street Medicine/Doctor's Without Walls. During Halloween, EMS Agency staff serves as the Medical Branch Director and oversee a triage unit in Isla Vista to provide treatment on site as applicable and/or direct to the emergency room. Staff time dedicated to annual Halloween activities is approximately \$6,500. AMR and UCSB, as the ambulance providers, bill individuals for transport services to recover operational costs.

Community Resources and Public Facilities: As noted in the Board letter, provided by Public Works for October 14, the County incurs costs of approximately \$3,500 for sign fabrication, sign placement and removal and 24 hour response, including replacement of signs as needed. The signs are placed on Storke Road, Los Carneros Road and El Colegio Road in the vicinity of Isla Vista. Placement of the signs is verified by the County Traffic Engineer and the signs will be repeatedly checked during the event. The cost is budgeted and is based on the time the signing and striping crews need to place and remove the signs.

Further, given the proximity of Goleta Beach Park to Isla Vista, County Parks is also in the process of developing a tactical plan to ensure that Goleta Beach parking area is not used to access Isla Vista for Halloween activities. Parks will ensure that the lot west of the main entrance is closed and that additional staff is in place Saturday and Sunday morning should the park and beach be impacted by the neighboring event, while allowing adequate parking for Beachside Café. There is neither substantial cost nor revenue loss associated with these actions.

Clean up of the Halloween event is addressed through volunteer efforts as well as through Isla Vista Adopt a Block, a program which the County funds in partnership with Goleta West Sanitary district and UCSB. The County's 1/3 contribution is \$22,000 annually. Street sweeping services on both Del Playa Drive and Sabado Tarde Road is provided by Goleta West Sanitary District. These costs are not directly charged to an agency. The cost of the scheduled sweeping for 2008 is \$2500 for a three day effort.

University of California at Santa Barbara: UCSB and surrounding UC campuses provides security on campus and in and Isla Vista to augment the overall law enforcements effort. In total they supply twenty additional personnel. Further UCSB has constructed fencing along El Colegio Road to ensure that no parking is available immediately adjacent to Isla Vista thus discouraging access to the community. The fencing is constructed in the areas along El Colegio Roadway as well as Los Carneros Road on University properties. All University lots are closed to the public with the exception of lots opened for use by those with permits. This year as a precaution and as a result of damage done to many student vehicles in 2007, the University is allowing students to move cars off IV roadways and park in structures. Other UCSB efforts to date include:

- Established a non guest policy for Halloween weekend in all residence halls.
- Sent letter to surrounding colleges and University discouraging attendance of the students and outlining level of enforcement and fines to be levied.
- Sent letter to all Santa Barbara County High schools requesting that High School paper notice the IV event, and the level of enforcement and fines levied.
- Sent e-mail to every UCSB student informing them of enforcement activities and fines.
- Campaign spearheaded by Associated Students to discourage irresponsible behavior during Halloween via my space, face book and other forms of communication
- Conducted briefing to parents and students during fall orientation apprising parents of Halloween and overall concerns of University.

The overall cost associated with the University effort is not known at this time.

Summary:

As in prior years, this event will be debriefed and adjustments made to address the event, and ensure public health and safety for the upcoming year. If you have any additional questions regarding Halloween please do not hesitate to contact Terri Nisich in my office at 568-3412.